

April 9, 1979

LB 457

to have anybody introduce the kill motion on it, or if it doesn't get 25 votes, it is not going to advance. I see, for the same reasons, I see no benefit or useful purpose in sending it to Senator Kremer's committee. He doesn't even want the bill. I don't think it does any good to send it back to our committee which I am a member of, the Miscellaneous Subjects. I think Senator Fowler has made the point. The bill has been heard. The amendments have been discussed. The bill was sent out of committee. The amendments were offered by the REAs. They were adopted by the REAs. I have another amendment, I believe, Mr. Clerk, up there that was offered by the utilities to comply with their wishes. Now if the body does not wish to listen to these amendments, they have the prerogative to do so. If they don't like the bill, they have the prerogative to vote no or to vote yes on a kill motion, but I see no useful benefit to this body other than saying that you didn't have to vote against a consumer bill, I see no useful benefit in terms of hiding behind the facade of referring the bill back to committee for further study. There is nothing further study that has to be done. The issue is a very simple one. Either you support the concept that the public has a right to present input to elected officials which we do for everybody else, which we do for this body, for the Legislature, which we do for the municipalities, which we have done with the cable TV bill or you don't, and if you want to be incongruous, if you want to support one philosophy one time and a different philosophy another time, that also is your prerogative and the only thing that gets 25 votes is right down here, that is what the saying goes. But I cannot see any benefit at all in sending the bill back to committee. I would move that we oppose the Newell motion. I would move that we oppose the Goodrich motion and let's discuss the bill on its merits and vote it up or down.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb. We are speaking to the Newell amendment to the motion.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to correct a statement that was made by Senator Fowler that there was no interest in sending this bill and a number of other bills that were related to the power industry to the Public Works Committee, because as a member of the Executive Board sitting as a Reference Committee, I tried on several occasions to have some of these bills, and I believe this was one of them, referred to the Public Works Committee because I believe that was where they really belonged. However, I was unsuccessful in doing that and I still believe that is where they should have gone for public hearing. I